

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus U.S. House of Representatives Jim Nussle, Chairman

309 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 226-7270 Rich Meade, Chief of Staff • www.budget.house.gov

Volume 4. Number 21

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

13 September 2004

Week of 13 September 2004

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) Saluting the Life and Courage of the Late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, 🔑 United States Navy (Retired) (H. Con. Res.407).



This resolution honors the late commander of the U.S.S. Pueblo, who along with his crew was captured and held by North Korea in 1968. The resolution has no budget implications.

- 2) Concerning Human Rights Violations in Syria (H. Con. Res. 363). This resolution expresses the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian people by the government of the Syrian Arab Republic. The resolution has no budget implications.
- 3) Expressing Freedom for Hong Kong (Cox). (H.Res. 667). This resolution declares the people of Hong Kong should determine the pace and scope of constitutional developments and all revisions of law be made through a democratically elected legislature and chief executive. The resolution has no budget implications.
- 4) Condemning Terrorist Attacks in Russia (H.Res. 760). This resolution condemns the series of terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004. The resolution has no budget implications.
- 5) National Archives and Records Administration Efficiency Act of 2003 (H.R. 3478). This bill makes various administrative changes to the National Archives and Records Administration [NARA]. It allows NARA to extend the length of time agencies can hold particular Federal records. It also authorizes NARA to purchase uniforms for employees, retain and spend fees for the public use of NARA facilities, and enter into cooperative agreements with public and nonprofit organizations to further NARA programs. The bill could result in an insignificant increase in direct spending, by authorizing NARA to retain and spend new fees collected from the public for use of its facilities for meetings and conferences; but such spending would be less than \$500,000.
- 6) To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, as the 'Archie Spigner Post Office Building' (H.R. 4632). This bill neither increases direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – nor reduces revenue.

(continued on next page)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A vellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

7) Honoring Former President William Jefferson Clinton on the Occasion of his 58th Birthday (H.Res. 717).



This resolution has no budget implications.

8) Expressing the Sense of Congress That the President Should Designate September 11 as a National Day of Voluntary Service, Charity, and Compassion (S.Con.Res. 127). This bill has no budget implications.



9) To Name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo, Texas, as the 'Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center' (H.R. 4836). This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.



10) To Name the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, as the 'Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic' (H.R. 1318).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

- 11) To Authorize the Use of Land in Virginia Key, Florida (H.R. 4027). This bill authorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] to allow the University of Miami to construct and operate a multidisciplinary marine life science center on Federal land on Virginia Key, Florida. Under the bill, NOAA would make the building site available to the university through a lease or other long-term agreement; no permanent conveyance of any Federal land or other property interest would be authorized. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 12) Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004 (H.R. 4481). This bill expands by about 615 acres the boundary of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Missouri. The bill authorizes the National Park Service [NPS] to acquire the additional acreage and related personal property by purchase, donation, or exchange. It also authorizes whatever amounts are necessary for these purposes, subject to appropriations. The bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 13) Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2003 (S. 1576). This bill expands the boundary of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia by about 1,240 acres. The bill authorizes the National Park Service [NPS] to acquire the acreage by purchase, donation, or exchange. It also authorizes whatever amounts are necessary for these purposes, subject to appropriations. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 14) Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act (H.R. 2457). This bill authorizes the NPS to design and build a visitor center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in Florida. The bill also transfers 3.1 acres of land to the city of St. Augustine, Florida. The land to be conveyed does not generate any significant receipts and is not expected to do so over the next 10 years, so any loss of offsetting receipts - receipts that are credited against outlays and counted as "negative" spending - will be negligible. Nevertheless, the bill could affect direct spending by this negligible amount. It does not reduce revenue.
- 15) To Clarify the Boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coast Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25 on Otherwise Protected Area P25P (H.R. 3056). This bill has no significant budget implications.

(continued on next page)

Budget Week Page 2

16) To Amend the Organic Act of Guam for the Purposes of Clarifying the Local Judicial Structure of Guam (H.R. 2400).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

17) To Provide an Additional Temporary Extension of Programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 Through September 30, 2004, and for Other Purposes (H.R. 5008).

This bill extends, through 30 September 2004, provisions of the Small Business Act and the Small Business Act. It authorizes, subject to appropriations, funding for any program or provisions that had previously been extended through 4 June 2004 under section 1 of Public Law 108-217, and under the same terms and conditions. It provides authority for the Small Business Administration to enter into contract with an agent to carry out, on behalf of the Administration, the assessment and collection of the related annual fee. At the time of publication a cost estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue. (If this bill were reported under a rule, it would violate section 401 of the Congressional Budget Act, which prohibits the consideration of any bill that provides new contract authority.)

18) Nonprofit Athletic Organization Protection Act of 2003 (H.R. 3369).

This bill exempts nonprofit athletic organizations, under certain conditions, from any liability caused by the adoption of rules for sanctioned or approved athletic competitions or practices. It also makes exceptions for certain provisions of State law. At the time of publication estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

19) Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act of 2003 (H.R. 1787).

This bill waives civil liability for an individual or entity (including a government agency) who donates fire control or fire rescue equipment to a volunteer fire company. The waiver does not apply to any injury or loss that may result from gross negligence or intentional misconduct, or if the person is the manufacturer of such equipment. At the time of publication estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

20) Volunteer Pilot Organization Protection Act (H.R. 1084).

This bill exempts from liability nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations

for harm caused by a volunteer while flying, in a legitimate activity of the organization, an aircraft for which the volunteer was properly licensed and individually insured. At the time of publication estimate was not available, but enacting this bill is not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2004 (H.R. 4571).

Committee: Judiciary

Summary: This measure requires courts to impose sanctions on attorneys, law firms, or parties who

file frivolous lawsuits. Such penalties can be imposed under current law, but at the

discretion of the court. This bill disallows the withdrawal or correction of pleadings to avoid those penalties. It requires courts to award parties who have been subject to frivolous law suits reasonable expenses and attorney's fees. It authorizes courts to impose sanctions to include reimbursement of a party's reasonable litigation costs in connection with frivolous lawsuits; and it makes the discovery phase of litigation subject to such sanctions against

frivolous lawsuits.

(continued on next page)

Budget Week Page 3

The bill also requires personal injury claims filed in State or Federal court to be filed in the county or district in which the person bringing the claim lives at the time of filing or when the injury occurred.

Cost: No cost estimate had been completed at the time of the preparation of this *Budget Week*,

but the bill is not expected to have any effect on direct spending.

Budget Act: The bill is not expected to violate any of the provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act

for Fiscal Year 2005 (H.R. 5025).

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: This measure provides budget authority for a variety of government agencies, primarily

the Departments of Transportation and Treasury. Among the agencies funded by this bill: the Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Maritime Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the Executive Office of the President, National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget, Federal Drug Control Programs, the Federal Election Commission, the General Services Administration, the

Office of Personnel Management, and the Postal Service.

Cost: The measure provides \$25.319 billion in budget authority and \$68.992 billion in outlays.

Both amounts are \$1 million under the respective 302(b) allocation provided to the

Transportation-Treasury Appropriations Subcommittee.

Budget Act: The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Prepared by The Committee on the Budget

Budget Week Page 4